On October 24, 2023, the Senate of the Republic approved the Draft Decree reforming and adding several provisions regarding the Table of Occupational Diseases. The reform sought to amend Articles 513, 514 and 515 of the Federal Labor Law.

The Bill modifies and updates the Table of Occupational Diseases contained in Article 513, eliminating some illnesses, and incorporating approximately 88 illnesses of occupational origin. Consequently, the total number the total number of pathologies will increase from 161 to 194. The scope of these diseases now encompasses:

- Women-specific diseases, including endometriosis and recurrent pregnancy loss.
- Psychosocial illnesses such as anxiety, insomnia and illnesses related with stress and depression.
- The list of occupational cancers is increased from 4 to 30.
- Diseases caused by infections, parasites, fungi, and viruses increase from 21 to 41 diseases, including COVID-19.
- Illnesses resulting from poisoning increase from 36 to 46 cases.

It is important to remember that these illnesses will be considered occupational hazards, and if a worker suffers from them, he or she will be entitled to various benefits payable by the employer (who may relieve himself of this obligation by insuring his employees in terms of the Social Security Law). Therefore, as the list of occupational diseases is extended, the number of cases that will give rise to the payment of these benefits also increases.

Among these benefits is the payment of monthly pensions for permanent disability, the amount of which depends on whether the disability is total or partial, and in the case of
partial disability, on the loss or reduction of the residual physical capacity.

In this sense, the Bill introduces the **Catalog of Forms for the Valuation of Occupational Diseases**, which must be published by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in the Official Journal of the Federation.

Finally, to ensure that the Tables and the Catalog remain up to date and relevant, the Ministry is now obligated to review them at least every 5 years or when there are studies or investigations that justify it. In the event of necessary updates, the Tables will be submitted to the President of the Republic to initiate the legislative process.

Having passed through the legislative branch, the initiative is now in the hands of the President of the Republic for promulgation and publication in the Official Journal, thus concluding the legislative process.

These new provisions will enter into force the day after their publication in the Official Journal. It is important to note that once published, the Ministry will have 45 working days to issue the abovementioned Catalog.

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